

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A Ghrelin antagonist peptide of the formula:

Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-A

where A is -OH, NH₂, Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-B, or -Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg-B,
where B is -OH or NH₂, wherein said peptide antagonizes the effect of ghrelin
when administered to a mammal.

2. The peptide of claim 1 specifically as

Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu.

3. The peptide of claim 1 specifically as:

Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg.

4. The peptide of claim 1 specifically as:

Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe

5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising peptide of claim 1 in the
form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

6. The composition of claim 5 which further comprises a carrier.

7. The composition of claim 5 in the form of a sustained release
formation or device for parenteral administration.

8. The peptide of claim 5 in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable intranasal formulation.

9. The peptide of claim 5 in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable inhalation formulation.

10. A method of normalizing elevated growth hormone levels in a mammal by administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective dose of at least one of the peptides of claim 1.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the peptide is:

Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the peptide is:

Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the peptide is:

Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the peptide is administered as a sustained release formulation or through a device used for parenteral administration.

15. The method of claim 10 wherein the peptide is administered as a pharmaceutically acceptable intranasal formulation.

16. The method of claim 10 wherein the peptide is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable inhalation formulation.

17. The method of claim 10 wherein the peptide is administered at a dosage of between about 1 and 10 mg/kg of body weight of the mammal.
18. The method of claim 10 wherein the peptide is administered to a mammal that is acromegalic.